

BESST - Buckinghamshire Education School Support & Training



Welcome to the April BESST update for Governors!

Spring has sprung, and so we are prompted to look ahead to the Summer Term.

Summer term dates for BESST Governor Training have now been released to book on the [BESST webpage](#) and a summary of all the courses is attached at the end of this newsletter. The first session after Easter is the free termly **Governor Priorities update on 26th April**, hosted with the Bucks Association of School Governors. We strongly recommend this session, especially for Chairs of Governors and clerks to help in setting your summer term agendas. Feedback on our courses to date has been excellent, with the recent Safeguarding course receiving an **overall satisfaction rating of 9.8 (out of 10)**.

The Corporate Director (DCS) Briefings for the Summer term are scheduled for Wednesday 27th April, 7pm and Thursday 28th April, 9.30am. Updates will be provided by **Richard Nash**, Corporate Director (DCS), Children's Services, **Simon James**, Service Director, Education, **Palvinder Kudhail**, Service Director, Children's Social Care, **Dan Flecknoe**, Public Health Consultant and **Paul Randall**, Buckinghamshire Association of School Governors. The meetings are conducted on MS Teams and you may book your place using the links below:

[Wednesday 27th April, 7pm](#)

[Thursday 28th April, 9.30am](#)

Covid

Covid cases rose last month, and at mid-March, overall absence across Bucks was 4% (1721) of pupils absent and 9% (2862) of teachers absent along with 7.9% of support staff absent from school. These absence levels continue to present daily challenges in many schools, and as ever, we are grateful to staff, pupils and governors for your perseverance during tough times.

Ukraine

With the current situation in the Ukraine, Children and Young people may well have seen or heard things about the Ukraine Crisis and will want to ask questions. They may have seen images or heard something that has worried or upset them and may be giving them bad dreams. If children and young people don't have the opportunity to voice concerns or worries, they will continue looking for the information that they need to make sense of the world, possibly searching for those answers on random websites which may close their minds, reduce their resilience to extremism, and possibly even place them in danger. The Local Authority School Improvement Service have provided links to materials that may assist school staff in talking about the conflict in an age-appropriate way, to challenge assumptions, correct misinformation and protect your school's values.

At the moment, it is not clear how many families in Bucks have signed up for the homes for Ukraine' scheme; however, there is some indication of community groups putting themselves forward. This may mean we will get concentrations of families in discrete geographical areas, potentially resulting in challenging numbers for some places.

The Local Authority are putting together an information pack for sponsors as it is important to ensure support for the refugees and the host family to ensure the scheme is as successful as possible; as well as a pack for schools that will signpost how to access services.

The Local Authority has also sought assurances from the DfE that schools' engagement in supporting refugees will not be negatively viewed when considering school performance measures such as end of Key Stage testing and Ofsted inspections.

BASL Conference for Headteachers

The BASL Conference for headteachers was well received in March. The conference focussed on the '**Legacy of Lockdown – Finding the Positive Route Out**' and as well as hearing from a number of excellent speakers, those who attended enjoyed networking together and learning from one another.

BESST Training – 2022/23

For 2022/23, governing boards will be able to sign up for a package of BESST training to receive a discounted rate, or you can continue to use the training on a Pay As You Go basis. Packages will be offered for the Autumn and Spring terms initially, and thereafter we will roll out packages for the next full financial year(23/24).

Governor Training Packages for the Autumn and Spring terms

Bronze Package	Silver Package	Gold Package
Access to 8 (one hour) Governor Training places over the Autumn and Spring terms: £150 (Saving of £50)	Access to 15 (one hour) Governor Training places over the Autumn and Spring terms: £300 (Saving of £75)	Access to unlimited Governor Training places over the Autumn and Spring terms: £600

Like this year, we are planning for training in the academic year 2022/23 to be virtually hosted on MS Teams and delivered in the evening. Each session will be led by a local expert and courses will be live and interactive. The one-hour sessions will be focused on the needs of Buckinghamshire's governors and will allow plenty of time for questions to ensure the training meets your needs. There may be occasional training that is offered in a different format, such as face to face or lasting more than one hour, and pricing for these courses will be listed on a pay as you go arrangement only.

More information and instructions on how to buy BESST services will be released at the beginning of the summer term.

About BESST

BESST is the traded school improvement and governor support service from Buckinghamshire Council. Led by our experienced team, BESST services will enable school leaders to keep up to date and support the implementation of best practice across Buckinghamshire. Our services will continue to develop in the coming months based on feedback from school leaders and governors.

Please see [BESST](#) online for more details of our training courses and services.



Buckinghamshire Education
School Support & Training
(BESST)

Summer Term BESST Governor Training Summary

Title	Date	Speakers
<i>Description</i>		
HR Single Central Record Training (£20)	26 th April, 10.00 – 11.00	Buckinghamshire Council HR team
<i>Buckinghamshire Council's HR team will take staff and governors through what information needs to be recorded in the Single Central Record and in what format.</i>		
Governor Priorities for your Summer Term Agenda (Free)	26 th April, 18.30-19.30	Paul Randall & Anne Sheddick, Buckinghamshire Association of School Governors (BASG)
<i>A session for governors to review the priorities for this summer term. To include info updates from DfE, NGA, LA priorities for Boards and suggested agenda items for the Summer term. This session will also include signposting to key areas to support Boards in the final term of this academic year.</i>		
Allegations – A Guide for Governors (£25)	5 th May, 18.30-19.30	Nicola Johnstone, Buckinghamshire Council LADO Service Manager
<i>This training session will enable delegates to understand the role of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and the referral process. You will learn more about your role and responsibilities where there are concerns about someone who works with children and feel confident about what should and need not be referred to the LADO.</i>		
Drop-In session for New Governors (£25 or included in your New Governor Welcome Package)	10 th May, 18.30-19.30	Paul Randall & Anne Sheddick, Buckinghamshire Association of School Governors (BASG)
<i>This session is especially for New Governors. It is a time to get advice on your role from the Chair and Vice Chair of Bucks Association of School Governors. You can ask any burning questions and meet other new governors from across the county.</i>		
Exclusions – An Introduction for all governors (£40)	19 th May, 18.30-20.30	Rose Lindsay and Berni Little, Buckinghamshire Council Exclusions & Reintegration
<i>Led by members of the Exclusions and Re-integration team, this session talks you through your responsibilities as governors with regards to exclusions from school. This is in line with the '2017 Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England Statutory guidance for those with legal responsibilities in relation to exclusion.'</i>		
Preparing for an Ofsted Inspection (£25)	26 th May, 18.30-19.30	Naureen Kausar, School Improvement Advisor
<i>We will use insights from the latest Ofsted framework, our discussions with our local HMI and our experience of Ofsted inspections across Buckinghamshire this academic year to help you to be prepared for an inspection.</i> <i>This session will help governors to understand what the inspectors will be looking for, how to identify potential issues in advance, plan effectively and be prepared on the day.</i> <i>Note that this session is a repeat of the course previously held in the Autumn term.</i>		

Developing Relationships with the Senior Leadership Team (£25)	9 th June 18.30-19.30	Yvette Thomas, Equalities and School Improvement Manager
<i>This session will give you practical tips and troubleshooting to help you build strong effective relationships with the senior leadership team.</i>		
Overseeing Educational Visits, the Governor's Role (£25)	14 th June 2022 6.30-7.30pm	Mike Harwin, Adviser for Educational Visits
<p><i>This session will provide Governors with up-to-date information about their roles and associated responsibilities with the approval process and provide detail in the following areas:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>To develop an understanding of the role of the School Governor in the approval process and National Guidance information.</i> <i>To provide Governors with a 'need to know' overview of Buckinghamshire Council's policies concerning Educational Visits.</i> <p><i>To raise Governor awareness to the issues currently faced in the planning and implementation of Educational Visits.</i></p>		
Embedding Equality and Diversity in your school (£25)	16 th June 18.30-19.30	Yvette Thomas, Equalities and School Improvement Manager
<i>Promoting equality and avoiding discrimination, supports the key educational agenda of improving attainment and progression for all pupils, opening up opportunities and increasing the chance of a successful life for every child. The session will provide Equality Governors with the most recent guidance for schools.</i>		
Building an Effective Governing Board – A guide for Development Governors (£25)	23 rd June 18.30-19.30	Paul Randall & Anne Sheddick, Buckinghamshire Association of School Governors (BASG)
<p><i>In changing times, this session will provide an update on what Boards need to do to keep up to date and upskill all governors. The session will signpost what help and training is out there, including LA supported training, the NGA and a roundup of freely available resources, so Boards can make good cost effective choices for their development and to keep up to date.</i></p> <p><i>Especially aimed at Chairs, Vice Chairs, Development Governors and Clerks. New governors needing to understand their personal development needs will find it useful too.</i></p>		
Health and Safety for Governors (£25)	29 th June 18.30-19.30	Carol Owens, Buckinghamshire Council Head of Health and Safety
<i>Join us to understand the role of the Governing Board in Health and Safety. We recommend governors refresh their Health and Safety awareness training every 3 years. Buckinghamshire Council's Health & Safety team will take you through your responsibilities as a school governor, give you an overview of key policies and sign post you to other useful resources. At the end of this session you will understand your responsibilities, understand the importance of risk assessments and know where to find further help and support.</i>		

Internet Safety – Keeping Children Safe in Education (£25)	7 th July, 18.30-19.30	Alison Watts, Buckinghamshire Council Prevent Education Officer
<i>The training session covers new and emerging technologies that children and young people use, the potential risks they may face and easy technical and lifestyle solutions which can be employed to help keep children and young people safe. Develop your understanding in the technologies that pupils and students are using; Learn how schools can keep children and young people safe online; Be signposted to a range of useful and practical resources</i>		
New Governors End of Year Review (£25 or included within your New Governor Welcome Package)	12 th July, 18.30-19.30	Paul Randall & Anne Sheddick, Buckinghamshire Association of School Governors (BASG)
<i>This session is especially for New Governors. It is a time to reflect on the first year in your new role, discuss issues and ideas with fellow new governors and get advice from the team.</i>		